

## TESTIMONY ON THE PROPOSED 4TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT MAP

Dear Redistricting Committee,

I am a lifelong resident of Stone Park and I write to you today to share my concern about the proposed congressional map. The **4th Congressional District** is the only Latino-majority district in the entire midwest region and so it is of utmost importance that my community remain in the district in its entirety.

Stone Park is part of a microcosm that has been dubbed "**The Parks**". Along with Stone Park this area encompasses surrounding suburbs like Melrose Park, Franklin Park, Northlake and the unincorporated Leyden Township area. These communities share park districts, youth-sports leagues, grocery stores, schools and churches.

As a result of this historically created district, the **4th Congressional District** has allowed thousands of immigrants, working-class families, and our vastly growing Latino community to thrive. Latinos have a right to representation and so it is important to consider the growth of the Latino population, particularly in these suburbs and the collar counties.

Under the Voting Rights Act, marginalized communities like those in the **4th Congressional District** have the federal right to live in an area that provides them with an opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice.

Though well-intentioned, the proposed congressional map dilutes the **4th Congressional District** by splitting up the Latino community and spreading the district into areas and communities with distinct commonalities. Doing this adversely impacts our community.

I urge the Redistricting Committee to reconsider this proposal with the aim of ensuring the preservation of our Latino community.

**Bobby Hernandez**

"The Parks" / Stone Park, IL